

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/00851

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61B5/0408

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 751 928 A (ZACHAR ANDREJ ET AL) 21 June 1988 (1988-06-21) the whole document	1-7
X	US 3 998 213 A (PRICE ROBERT A) 21 December 1976 (1976-12-21) the whole document	1-7
X	US 6 004 312 A (FINNERAN BRENDA A ET AL) 21 December 1999 (1999-12-21) the whole document	1-7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 June 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/07/2003

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patent family members

PCT/IB 03/00851

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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US 3998213	A	21-12-1976	NONE	
US 6004312	A	21-12-1999	AU 723456 B2 AU 7134398 A EP 0975260 A1 JP 2002502274 T WO 9846129 A1 US 6047202 A US 6002957 A	24-08-2000 11-11-1998 02-02-2000 22-01-2002 22-10-1998 04-04-2000 14-12-1999